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(i) Conversion of step-wetlls into draw-wells,

(ii) biological method, i.e., introduction of certain species of fish into wells which will eat away the cyclops and render the water safe,

(iii) chemical method of treating infested drinking water with fresh lime, and

(iv) intensive propaganda in infested villages with regard to the mode of infection and control of the disease; education of the villagers to prevent contamination of water by persons suffering from the disease and to strain drinking water through a piece of cloth to remove the cyclops.

"(*b*) Yes. It is the most effective and also a permanent method.

"(*c*) Collectors have been asked to take steps to convert step-wells into draw-wells wherever possible.

"(*d*) High priority is given for the conversion of step-wells into draw-wells in unhealthy localities where there is guinea-worm.

"(*e*) 316."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the number of step-wells converted into draw-wells is so small and that guineaworm is prevalent in many parts of the Presidency, will the Hon. Minister draw the attention of the Collectors to give high priority to the conversion of step-wells into draw-wells?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir."

Recommendations of the Bhore Committee.

* 146 *Q*.—MRS. MONA HENSMAN (on behalf of Mrs. M. N. Clubwala) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what action has been taken on the recommendations of the Bhore Committee and whether before finalizing their views the Government propose to constitute and consult a Committee of the Legislature?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Health Survey and Development Committee's recommendations on various public subjects require examination in the light of the orders passed by the Government on their post-war schemes relating to the subjects dealt with by the Committee, to see what action is called for on those recommendations. Such an examination has now been going on for the last six months in the Secretariat, and the examination so far made shows that in matters like the establishment of province-wide health organizations, health services for special diseases (like malaria, cholera, plague, etc.), water-supply and drainage (urban and rural), maternity and child welfare, nutritional research, the schemes which have already been

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formulated by the Government and are awaiting implementation or which are already in the process of execution either satisfy in essentials the principles recommended by that Committee or are more progressive than the schemes proposed by the Committee.

" Wherever the recommendations of the Committee cover new ground, they are examined in consultation with the concerned heads of departments, and if in any case the nature of the recommendations calls for a consideration of the problems involved by an expert committee, the question of constituting such a committee will be considered by the Government.

" A conference of Provincial Health Ministers which was held in New Delhi in October last has reviewed several salient recommendations of the Bhore Committee and has reached conclusions. More such conferences will probably be held in future.

" The Government do not therefore consider that any useful purpose will be served by constituting a committee of the Legislature in connection with these recommendations. The orders passed by Government from time to time on the recommendations will be made available in the library of the Legislature."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Is it not one of the recommendations of the Bhore Committee that in regard to the admission of students to medical colleges, one-third should be recruited on the ground of merit alone?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information, now."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the answer given by the Hon. Minister is the considered opinion of this Government, or whether the answer has been merely prepared in the Secretariat and whether it is the individual opinion of the Hon. Minister?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" We should not go into the authorship of the answer."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The answer relates to policy on some important matter and therefore I want to know whether it is the considered opinion of the Government."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, the answers given are always the considered opinion of the Government. I do not think the Government give answers in such a way as to rouse doubts as to their veracity or as to their application to the questions raised."

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K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" A doubt arose in my mind out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, because he said that these questions are being examined in the Secretariat for the past six months . . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It was also said that the results were published and made available to the Members."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It was said that they would be published and would be made available."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that in view of what all he has said, very little provision has been made to carry out many of these items in the Budget for 1947-48 and in view of the strong feeling here and outside, whether he would see that some at least of the recommendations of which the Madras Government are in favour are given effect to in the near future?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Whatever is possible will be done, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I want to say a word of explanation. These are extensive schemes of health services and from the point of view of finance, they come under a spending department. Therefore unless due provision is made in the Budget for the year, these schemes cannot be taken up as often as may be necessary or as often as one may wish. In this Budget, the allotment made is rather poor and I do not know whether the Government will be justified in accepting a proposition of that sort."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" May I ask, Sir, how many health centres are going to be started this year in this Province? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The budget proposals must give some information to the hon. Membetr."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" As the Hon. the Leader of the House himself says that the provision made is poor, will the Government consider the matter again and bring forward some supplementary demands and we will be glad to consider them?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member means perhaps pass them." (Laughter.)

X-ray apparatus for Royapetta Tuberculosis Hospital.

* 147 *Q.*—MRS. MONA HENSMAN (on behalf of Mrs. M. N. Clubwala : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Tuberculosis Hospital at Royapetta is provided with X-ray apparatus;